

# GayCommunity News

THE WEEKLY FOR LESBIANS AND GAY MALES

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## *Boston Queers Denounce Air War in El Salvador, Join National Actions*



Marilyn Humphries

## *AIDS Phobia, Foster Care Precedent Linked to Mass. Rights Bill Defeat*

*Bummed in Boston*



Ellen Snub

**GCN Reader Feedback Form Inside**



# GayCommunityNews

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October 5, 1985

*Homophobes raise AIDS, breakdown of the family*

## Mass. House Crushes Gay Rights Bill, 88-65

By Christine Guilfoy

BOSTON — In what turned out to be a resounding defeat, the lesbian/gay rights bill fell in the Massachusetts House of Representatives by an 88 to 65 vote. The measure, which would have extended civil rights protections in jobs and housing to persons regardless of sexual orientation, has effectively been killed for this year.

The debate was at times stormy, with the opponents of the bill suggesting its passage would increase the spread of AIDS and would "further" break down the family and moral fibre of the country. Proponents attempted to separate issues of public health and morality from issues of civil rights and also attempted to correct inaccuracies in the assertions of legislators about the spread of AIDS.

The September 23 vote, which followed almost four hours of debate, was expected to be much closer than the final tally. Recent head counts, according to Peg Lorenz, lobbyist for the Massachusetts Gay Political Caucus (MGPC), had indicated a virtual dead heat with 16 legislators undecided up until the last minute. The MGPC has led the fight for passage of the bill for over a decade.

Several legislators who had voted in favor of the bill when it last came up in the House in 1983 voted against it this time around. In 1983, the bill passed the House by four votes, but was killed in the Senate on a technicality.

As in 1983, the Roman Catholic Church opposed the bill, as did the Christian Scientists. The morning of the debate, the lobbyist for the Catholic Church circulated a letter to each representative from the Catholic bishops of Massachusetts, urging that they vote the civil rights measure down. The reasoning presented in the letter was the same used by several legislators that afternoon in the floor debate. The position of the National Catholic Conference was also cited by legislators.

The defeat came despite a lobbying effort by Massachusetts Governor Michael S. Dukakis. Many in the lesbian/gay community regard the governor's effort as an attempt to regain favor following his anti-gay foster parent policy and his fight against the inclusion of lesbians and gay men as an outreach target of the statewide Democratic Party. Many also believe that the actions of the Dukakis administration in recent months have set back gay rights by providing an unfriendly climate towards gay issues. However, the administration denies this, saying traditional opposition coupled with the linkage of AIDS defeated the bill. They maintain that the governor's lobbying effort is motivated by his belief that this is a civil rights issue, and is not an attempt to curry favor.

The bill's chief sponsor and the leader of the floor debate, Representative Thomas J. Valley (D-Boston), anticipated the tenor

of the discussion in his opening statements on the floor of the House. He told the legislators that the bill dealt with civil rights and that it had to be separated from issues of public health. "There is a silent, pervasive discrimination against these people," he said. "[The measure] does not condemn or condone, it just says [a gay man or lesbian] can't be discriminated against."

House minority leader William G. Robinson (R-Melrose), who had earlier been quoted by the Boston Globe as saying he would ask that the bill be sent to the House Ways and Means Committee for a study of its impact on AIDS, said to Valley, "Nobody brought up AIDS, you brought it up." Robinson's published comments in the Globe resulted in a

telephone call from Bailus Walker, the public health commissioner, who discussed AIDS with him. But Robinson remained unmollified.

Robinson was considered by many to be a key vote by virtue of his position as the Republican leader. He had voted for the measure in 1983, but apparently changed his mind because of recent publicity over AIDS. "The timing of the bill couldn't be worse," he said and challenged, "Tell me with absolute certainty that a parallel cannot be drawn between the public health issue and the gay rights issue.... It's a public health question and it's just that, a question." Although Robinson did not generally make his concerns about the connection more specific, he did note that gay men are asked not to donate blood and

asked if potential employers did not have "civil rights" also.

Some of Robinson's colleagues were more specific in their assertions.

Recently, the town of Swansea decided to allow a child, who had contracted AIDS from the clotting factor he takes for his hemophilia, to attend school, over the objection of some parents. In reference to the situation, the representative from that district, Philip Travis (D-Rehoboth) said, "This child has no civil rights because somebody was brainless enough to donate blood when they had AIDS." The remark drew hisses from the gallery which had fifty gay men and lesbians looking on.

The chairperson of the Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance (BLGPA), Rosemary Dunn

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## El Comité, United Fruit, lesbians join Boston protest Salvador Air War Hit

By Armando Gaitán

BOSTON — About 2500 people rallied and demonstrated against the U.S.-financed bombing of the Central American country of El Salvador September 21 at the Boston Common. Several speakers, including openly gay City Councillor David Sondras, assailed U.S. foreign policy and involvement in the aerial assault on the civilian population and called for the reallocation of war monies to human services in this country. "Where is his [Reagan's] war against AIDS? Where is his war against hunger in this country?" asked Sondras of the crowd. Boston School Committee member Jean McGuire focused on human needs left unattended because of Reagan's policies. Other speakers included the Reverend Graylan Hagler of TransAfrica, and Julia Wallace of the Sanctuary Movement.

According to Arnoldo Ramos, a speaker representing the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FDR/FMLN), "...with the U.S. Congress about to appropriate \$483 million in aid to El Salvador, it is essential that U.S. citizens demonstrate their opposition to this genocidal war." Over one billion dollars have already been funneled to El Salvador for military and economic aid. Seventy-four percent of this aid goes to Duarte's government's war efforts. Meanwhile, the Reagan administration asked for \$85.6 million to fight AIDS in fiscal year 1986. Although the administration has been embarrassed into raising that figure to \$126 million, it proposes funding the increase by cutting \$40 million from Indian health services.

During the last 18 months, more than 3400 civilians have been killed in aerial and ground attacks by U.S.-made and -supplied artillery. One such piece of hardware is the AC-27 gunship known during the Vietnam War as "Puff the Magic Dragon." It is capable of placing one bullet in every square foot of a football field every 60 seconds. According to the Catholic Archdiocese in El Salvador, more than 50,000 people have already been killed by the Duarte-led govern-

ment. El Salvador has a population of only five million and is about the size of Massachusetts. One-third of the country is under constant bombardment.

The bombings occur in areas where there has been no recent military activity on the part of the rebels, making civilians the sole



*Marching in Boston against El Salvador air war, Sept. 21.*

targets. Last year, according to the *Christian Science Monitor* (July 31, 1984), Duarte's Air Force increased the number of jets participating in the bombardments from two to five on the advice of U.S. advisors. The government fires 975 rockets and drops an average of sixty 500-pound bombs and seventy-five 750-pound bombs in the area each month. This Vietnam-style scorched-earthing makes the rural areas uninhabitable and has forced 100,000 people to flee. In addition, more than 750,000 have fled the country because of the civil war, the killings, and the bombings. However, according to the *New York Times* (July 18, 1985) the Reagan administration denies that civilians are being killed in the air war.

Several refugees from El Salvador were present at the demonstration. According to El

torture and daily killings of the civilian population. One young man recounted how his parents had been gunned down in his presence by the military for organizing prayer and Bible readings. He had no choice but to flee.

Reports from independent international human rights organizations such as Americas Watch and Amnesty International confirm the brutalities of the Duarte government. Ironically, U.S. Secretary of State Schultz, in his address to the U.N. General Assembly September 24, praised Duarte for his "courageous" efforts to bring democracy to El Salvador.

There was a strong, visible lesbian and gay presence at the Sept. 21 rally. Aside from Boston City Councillor David Sondras, the

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*Greeting Reagan in New Hampshire, September 18.*

Duford, staff at the NH Feminist Health Center in Concord. "Someone shoved my shoulder and pulled my hair, and someone else tried to yank my sign out of my hands.

*Continued on page 3*

Susan A. Jamicki

# News Notes

## hurray for west hollywood

WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA — The City Council here passed on August 15 the second citywide ordinance in the U.S. banning discrimination against people with AIDS, according to the *Sentinel*. The measure, which passed unanimously, was preceded by passage of a similar law in Los Angeles, August 13. See GCN, Vol. 13, No. 8.)

The ordinance protects people with AIDS and people perceived to have AIDS in employment, housing, business, services (including hotel, restaurant, medical education, and city services). Blood banks, sperm banks, and organ donor facilities are not covered by the ordinance.

## silly rabbit, tricks are for kids

GLASGOW, Scotland — Humans are the most sexually active mammals on earth, according to Dr. Dennis Lincoln of Edinburgh University. The San Juan Star reports that Lincoln told the British Association for the Advancement of Science that, "I believe the human animal is about 10,000 times more sexually active than the rabbit."

## boston man arrested for photos of boys

BOSTON — A man was arraigned here on charges of receiving sexually explicit photos of males believed to be under age 18, according to the Boston *Globe*. Mark Lawrence, 64, was arrested August 21, after Federal and local police raided his apartment and seized the photos. Specifically, the complaint charges that Lawrence received photographs of "male children under the age of 18 engaging in actual or simulated masturbation and masochistic abuse."

Lawrence was held overnight and "released" to a psychiatric facility under the direction of Dr. Sheldon D. Zigelbaum after posting \$100,000 personal bond. Assistant U.S. Attorney Susan Via had asked that Lawrence be held without bail because she claimed, "There are no conditions or reasons to assume the safety of male children in this community if the court decides to release the defendant." Although Lawrence was not charged with anything other than receiving photos, Via said that, "We have found evidence to show that the defendant actively recruits children to come to his apartment."

Lawrence, a freelance writer, was the object of an investigation by U.S. Postal and Customs Service officials beginning in mid-May. Federal Magistrate Robert De Giacomo ordered Lawrence's visitors be limited to his attorney, Joseph J. Balliro, his "doctors," and his son. Lawrence may not leave the psychiatric facility except for treatment unless otherwise sanctioned by the court.

## dade county strikes again

MIAMI — On September 18, the Dade County Commissioners tentatively approved a law requiring the area's 80,000 food service workers to carry cards certifying they are free of communicable diseases, including AIDS, according to the *New York Times*.

The primary motivation for the law comes from fear of AIDS. According to Commissioner Sherman Winn, sponsor of the ordinance, "It's said that AIDS can be communicated through the blood. Well, people in kitchens do cut themselves."

However, county health officials have questions about the usefulness of such a program. "It would be very unusual for a communicable disease to be spread through food," said county health director Dr. Richard Morgan. "AIDS and venereal disease, for example, are spread through blood transfusions and sexual contact. Food-borne illnesses are caused by improper handling, like letting something that's supposed to be hot get cold, not by a worker with a disease."

A similar measure, requiring workers to certify they were free of tuberculosis and syphilis, was abandoned in 1974 because it was found to be ineffective.

Dr. Morgan interprets the proposed ordinance to mean that workers found to have communicable diseases would lose their jobs because they would be unable to receive cards proving certification.

A hearing must be held before the commissioners consider the bill again. No hearing date has been set.

## women's stories/women's lives

BOSTON — "Women's Stories/Women's Lives: A Cross-Cultural Exploration" is the title of the Women's Theological Center's 1985-86 lecture and workshop series. The first program, on the topic of "Women Building Community," took place September 20 at U-Mass, Boston with Gloria Fox, Suzanne Lee, Carmen Pola, and Carole Rossi.

The series continues on November 15 with "Roots Uprooted: Dealing with Historical Dislocation." Cuban, Japanese-American and African-American women will discuss the impact of historical-political dislocations on women's lives. Participants are Oliva Espina, Curdina Hill, and Kesaya Noda, 7 p.m. at Boston University, Marsh Chapel, 735 Commonwealth Ave.

Other upcoming discussions include: "Sexuality and Intimacy: Culture, Choices and Conflict," January 31, 7 p.m., location to be announced, with Jan Gadson-Ellis, Lee Ann Hoff, Pui Lan Kwok, and Lillian Vidal; "Sisterhood is Solidarity: Women's International Struggles," February 21, 7 p.m., Church of the Covenant, 67 Newbury St., with Karin Aguilar, Hyun Kyung Chung, Ntsiki Langford, and Estella Ramirez; "Poetry is not a Luxury," March 14, 7 p.m., location to be announced, an evening of readings with Kate Rushin and other poets; "Faith as a Force for Change," April 25, 7 p.m., Union United Methodist Church, 485 Columbus Ave., with Yamina Apolinaris, Henrietta Attles, Hayat Imam, and Marianne Martin; and "Women's Stories/Women's Lives: A Presentation in Sculpture," planned for the fall.

For more information about locations and workshops accompanying evening programs, call 277-1330.



## some swiss success

BERN, Switzerland — Swiss voters have rejected a proposed bill that would have limited abortions and banned some contraceptives, according to a report from the *New York Times* in *Womanews*. The proposal, sponsored by conservative Roman Catholic and Protestant fundamentalist groups, would have restricted abortion to cases in which the woman's life was endangered.

The current law states that abortions may only be performed when there is "grave danger" to the health of the woman. Approximately 15,000 abortions are performed in Switzerland each year.

## quebec women's centers meet

MONTREAL — At the first conference of Quebec women's centers, June 9-11, a province-wide association was created, according to this city's *Communi-qu'ELLES*. The new feminist association will function as a solidarity group with a primary focus on funding for the centers. The majority of current funds come from the provincial or federal government.

Of an estimated 96 women's centers in Quebec, 74 were represented at the conference. The other centers were unable to send representatives due to lack of funds.

## birth control too controversial for tv

NEW YORK — CBS and ABC have rejected a two-minute public service announcement designed to give information about contraception to teenagers because they said the subject of birth control was "too controversial."

According to a *Womanews* report from the *New York Times*, George Schweizer of CBS said that, "[A]lthough CBS has accepted public service announcements prepared by other groups concerned about health, we turned down this one because we believe that contraception is an unacceptable subject for public service announcements."

## wisconsin insurers may refuse to cover aids

MILWAUKEE — In a move designed to protect their profits, insurance companies in the state may begin excluding coverage of AIDS, according to the *New York Times*.

George Hardy, legislative counsel to the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, said the exclusion might be necessary because of state law which forbids the use of HTLV-III antibody test in determining insurability. Wisconsin and California are the only states having such laws.

Hardy said that the exclusion of coverage for AIDS involved "a question of sound underwriting practices." Exclusions of the type that Northwestern is considering apply only to particular diseases and conditions, and are not retroactive to existing policies. Thus, a person with AIDS who obtains a policy with the proposed option could be covered for non-AIDS-related claims.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield United of Wisconsin, the state's largest insurer, and the Wausau Insurance Company are considering placing options on health insurance policies to exclude AIDS coverage.

## kkk: making the connections

HOUSTON — The Ku Klux Klan has announced it will demonstrate at city hall here September 28 in support of apartheid in South Africa and against the re-election of Mayor Kathy Whitmire, according to the *Montrose Voice*. Whitmire supported the Houston lesbian/gay rights ordinance which failed by a ratio of 4-1 in a referendum in January of this year. (See GCN, Vol. 12, No. 28.) Later the same day, the Klan will demonstrate against Latino immigrants and refugees in front of the Pasadena, Texas City Hall.

Charles Lee, grand dragon of White Camellia Knights of the KKK, said that the Houston rally will "bring out the points about Kathy Whitmire and the support she has from the homosexual community. The fact that she is supposed to be a city leader and that the homosexual community is known for drugs, prostitution and everything else, and yet she goes bar hopping down there, and that's the kind of people she likes to support."

Lee added, "When she backed the homosexuals and the gay referendum, everybody saw her true colors, and I think her time is up."

Whitmire faces a re-election challenge from ultra-conservative Louie Welch, a former Houston mayor who was heavily involved in the campaign to defeat the lesbian/gay rights ordinance.

As far as apartheid goes, Lee said that, "We feel the white government of South Africa has the right to rule their government. That's all there is to it."

After the Klan's demonstration against immigrants and refugees in Pasadena, it will show the film, *The Birth of a Nation*. Lee described the film as a depiction of how the KKK saved the South.



**ARTcetera raises \$100,000 for AAC**

# Dukakis Presence at AIDS Event Draws Fire

By Stephanie Poggi

BOSTON — On September 21 the AIDS Action Committee (AAC) held its largest fundraiser to date, amid controversy over the choice of Governor Michael Dukakis as co-chair of the event. Members of the Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee (GLDC) passed out informational flyers to people exiting ARTcetera '85, protesting the governor's presence in view of his anti-gay and -lesbian foster care policy.

A financial success, the auction at Boston City Hall brought in at least \$110,000 from auction items and entrance tickets at \$50 a head. According to Harry Collings, chairperson of the AAC's fund-raising committee, the money raised will go primarily for education, and for housing for people with AIDS.

Sarah Holmes of GLDC, a group formed to oppose the foster policy, told *GCN* that in meetings

with the AAC, the latter was asked to find a co-chair other than Dukakis for the fundraiser. Collings said that although the issue of Dukakis chairing had "come up in a number of discussions" at the AAC, the group felt it could not disinvite the governor. The AAC argued that he had been asked to participate before formulating the foster policy which excludes lesbians and gay men. The policy also discriminates against single people, women working outside the home, and foster-home settings that do not follow the nuclear family model.

As the meetings continued, attended by representatives of Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance, Massachusetts Gay Political Caucus, and Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, GLDC proposed that flyers be handed out at the entrance to the auction between 5:30

and 8:30 p.m. as people arrived. AAC refused, according to Collings, because it "didn't want the media to focus on that [the protest against Dukakis]." However, he stressed that all members of the AAC oppose the governor's policy. Collings added that it was the AAC's experience that flyers were more effective if given out at the end of an event.

Holmes, who maintains that the GLDC action would have been "much more effective at the beginning," also said the media would not have been an issue "if people on the inside made it clear they didn't resist our presence."

Eventually, a compromise was agreed upon with GLDC handing out approximately 250 flyers from 10 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. as auction participants exited, and with the AAC's support in handing out "Foster Equality" buttons inside the auction.

According to Holmes and other activists on the foster policy issue, response to the GLDC presence and literature was excellent. Lesbian activist Susan Bernstein told *GCN* that many of those leaving stopped to talk to GLDC members and read the flyer as they stood outside the auction.

services. Yet, in contradiction to this, Dukakis has established a new policy which effectively bans lesbians and gays from serving as foster parents. This policy, which denies our humanity, fuels the same kind of hysterical prejudice and homophobia which has surrounded the AIDS issue. Dukakis



**GLDC member Sarah Holmes (r) passes out flyers protesting Dukakis anti-lesbian/-gay foster parent policy, outside AIDS Action Committee's ARTcetera '85 benefit, September 21.**

## El Salvador Air War Protest

Continued from page 1

event was emceed by lesbian activist Julie Dow. During the initial mock funeral, many demonstrators in black robes filed in with white crosses representing the bombing victims, and placed them on the hill overlooking the Boston Common. In addition to the

on legislation, sponsored by Senator Jack Backman of Brookline, which would provide aid to Central American refugees in the Commonwealth. Then, about 80 demonstrators marched from the State House to the Immigration and Naturalization Services Detention Center, where two Guatemalans are held and from which four Salvadoreños have been deported since the Center opened in December, 1984.

Eleven Pledge of Resistance members, including five lesbians, attempted to do non-violent civil disobedience (CD) at the site. However, 30 to 40 Boston police,

the John F. Kennedy federal building. Federal agents fearing more civil disobedience trailed the small group every step. Again, no arrests were made.

Commenting on civil disobedience in a BANCA press release, lesbian activist Cathy Hoffman stated, "We don't believe we are breaking the law in this case, because the U.S. government is violating our own immigration laws and international laws — which state that people who have a well-founded fear of persecution back home must be granted political asylum.... [W]e are carrying out the laws our government is



**Gravestone for gay men**

crosses, two gravestones were dedicated to lesbians and gay men involved in the Salvadoran revolutionary movement. One of the largest banners in the entire rally was a colorful one from the lesbian/gay contingent.

The group that attracted the most attention in the predominantly straight gathering was the United Fruit Company. Composed of gay men from an affinity group of the Pledge of Resistance, the United Fruit Company entertained and educated their straight audience. Cleverly using camp and drag, the small company made connections between the Central American struggles and the gay/lesbian struggle. The audience learned about Stonewall through creative TV commercial takeoffs, responding enthusiastically with applause and laughter. Seeing them for the first time, Karin San Juan Aguilar, one of the national organizers of the Filipino movement in the U.S. and an out lesbian, commented, "They're great. They should do more."

The demonstration was sponsored by the Boston Area Network on Central America (BANCA) as the beginning of a 4-day nationwide protest against the U.S. foreign policy and involvement in the bombing of El Salvador. On Monday, BANCA organized a press conference at the Massachusetts State House where two Salvadorean refugees testified about the aerial war and focused



**Lesbians from the Pledge of Resistance confront police in attempt to enter the Immigration and Naturalization Service Detention Center during civil disobedience protest, Sept. 23.**

six mounted police, and several police dogs thwarted their attempts. CDers were dragged off and pushed. There were a few injuries, but no arrests were made.

On Tuesday, about 20 people lobbied elected federal officials at

defying. This is civil *initiative*, not civil disobedience."

For more information concerning Central American activities, organizations, or individuals mentioned in this article, please call CASA at (617) 492-8699.

# Editorial

## Who Are You?

As people putting out a community-based, non-profit newspaper, we at *GCN* have always prided ourselves on the special relationship we retain with our readers. No one could ever say that the people who choose *GCN* as a source of information about the gay and lesbian movement are a passive, uncaring or uncritical bunch. Many of our readers take pride in telling us what they like or don't like, either by writing or phoning us, cornering us at community events, or bringing it up at *GCN*'s monthly membership meetings.

We need and welcome this personal involvement; but what about our loyal readers (and once-in-a-while readers) who don't have a direct line to us? As a result of geography, time and resources, or inclination, we never hear from a majority of our readers across the U.S. and abroad. That doesn't mean their opinions about *GCN* are any less important to us.

To help us identify what our readers look for in *GCN* and whether or not we're providing it, we are running a special readers' survey in the centerspread of this issue. The survey comes as the logical next step after alleviating the immediate financial crisis of this past spring and summer. Thanks to you, we raised over \$15,000 in a three-month period. While we will always have to engage in some fundraising, we are looking at ways to strengthen *GCN*'s financial base. Part of our planning for long-term solvency includes an evaluation of the paper — its content as well as its finances — and once again we turn to our readers for input and advice.

So often at *GCN*, we have made assumptions about who out there is reading us. Are these conceptions based at all on fact, or are we way off? We need to hear from you before we begin to make some of the difficult decisions about *GCN*'s future. We urge all of you to take the time to complete the survey on pages eight and nine, make additional comments, and return it to us as soon as possible. All of us who put out the paper — and, ultimately, all of you who read and support the paper — will benefit.

\* \* \*

An important way *GCN* interacts with its local membership is through monthly membership meetings. Here, volunteers and staff and board members assemble to discuss, critique and plan ahead. As important as these meetings are, attendance has lagged in the last few months. To encourage more people to attend and participate, we've decided to do something *GCN* has always done well: Eat great food. Rather than force interested people to wolf down fast-food before coming, or wait impatiently for the meeting to end so a late dinner won't be eaten even later, we're asking people to come bearing a main course, salad, vegetable, non-alcoholic beverage or dessert between 6:00 and 6:30 p.m., so we can socialize a bit before starting the meeting. Please join us for the next membership meeting — Monday, October 7 at the *GCN* office — for good food, good company and good ideas.

*GCN* editorials reflect the opinions of the paid, full-time staff collective.

## Community Voices pride and unity

Dear *GCN*:

For the first time in my life I stood by and watched a Gay Pride Parade. Since I am from New York, it felt a little odd that I should be doing this in Boston. None the less there I stood with a strong sense of pride like I had never felt before. All around me I could see a unity that I never knew could exist. Men and women, different backgrounds and beliefs, all ages, they were marching side by side in the biggest display that I have ever seen. Yes, indeed I was proud!

But, alas, I was soon to come down from my cloud and to a very rude awakening. I would come to realize that the unity that I saw was a false one. It was a unity that was planned for that day. As soon as the march was over, the last chant cried out and the last speech spoken, everything would return to normal. Normal.

The different groups would come back out and look down on anyone who dared to be different from them. The so-called "Macho Men" would turn their noses down at the "Fairies" who in turn will jeer at the "Dykes" who would...

"A house divided against itself cannot stand."

Our chants call the heterosexual community to give us the respect that we deserve as human-beings. We demanded that they understand our way of life. We told them that we wanted equal rights to live our life freely. The only problem I saw was that while we were so busy telling them what we expected, we never listened to our own speeches. We fail to give ourselves the respect, the rights, and the understanding we want from others.

The unity I saw was to last that one Saturday and be repeated next year. As I see it, gay unity cannot last for 24 hours or for a week not even a year. Gay unity must come everyday of our life.

When the Blacks were being "kept in their place," they went around using the same form of verbal abuse that the whites shouted at them. It gave them a false sense of superiority over each other. When they became proud of their background and of what they had to offer, they stopped abusing themselves. Their pride united them. While they may still have set backs, they will never again be underestimated and have earned everyone's respect.

It is time that we find the same sense of pride in who we are and stop abusing ourselves by using words such as "Faggot" and "Dyke." It is high time that we let people know that we will not allow them to abuse us anymore. It is time that we point to our great merits and contributions that we, the homosexual communities throughout the world, have given.

Let us educate ourselves with facts. Let us look up to our role models for guidance. Yes, role models. Homosexuals have contributed to every field of life. Music, art, literature, sports and much more.

The real issue is not our homosexuality but are we able to contribute to the society we live in. The answer to this is YES. Our upbringing teaches us to demand respect. My family gave me an excellent upbringing. Today they may not fully understand why I am gay, if they did something wrong, or even if they may have done too much for me but one thing stands out, they are trying to understand me and they do respect me as I am. I have earn that respect by not tearing apart my brother and sisters who I do not fully understand, by standing up for our rights, by being myself: a hard working human being in pursuit of a decent life who just happens to be homosexual but proud.

Edwin Rodriguez  
Boston, MA

## protesting 'crimes against nature'

Dear *GCN*,

I am presently being held on a charge of "crime against nature." My reason for writing is to seek some outside support in challenging this outdated law which is very broad and vague.

It is clearly questionable when two consenting adults are charged with a victimless crime that is applied differently to males and females. When a female (never the man, of course) is arrested for prostitution, it's a minor victimless crime. But when a male is entrapped in a sexual act with another male it's called a "crime against nature," a felony, a major crime, punishable with up to 5 years in prison in Louisiana.

I want to attack this matter, but will need the help of those groups that have been successful in changing these laws in other places. Legal assistance in this matter is vital.

For more information, please contact me. The present laws regarding sexual behavior in one's own home are out-of-step with modern times and this should be made clear.

Sincerely,  
Salenia Dupra  
51061  
Legal Defense Committee  
Rt 2 Box 66  
Keithville, LA 71047

## volunteers needed: this means you

An Open Letter to the Gay and Lesbian Community:

Speaking for myself, as a support service volunteer of the AIDS Action Committee, I have a message for the entire community. It's not a new message, but it's one that bears repeating every day, and in a more specific context.

As you all know, the number of AIDS cases increases every day. But the number of volunteer workers does not. I know that some of you, many of you, have donated money through the various auctions, hikes, and benefits, and it's heartwarming to see this generosity. But it's not enough.

The everyday life of a person with AIDS can be a Herculean struggle. Some have no support group or money at all — they've either been fired at work, disowned at home, or have moved to Boston in search of help. We all have to help them, on a continuing basis.

Gay culture is so rich with talent and ability, resources, and energy. Please donate, contribute, volunteer, lobby. Health workers, realtors, hair-stylists, carpenters, politicos — volunteer your talents. Restaurant owners, donate hot meals to the bedridden. Clothing store owners, provide new clothing, shoes, etc. — a real luxury for some. All of you health club devotees, donate some time in the service of those who may need help getting from day to day or room to room, not to mention from "set to set." Writers, painters, electricians, computer analysts, all of you, please do something. Take the strain off of the same 100 volunteers who seem to have to do everything.

DON'T think that there will always be time later to help.

DON'T assume someone else is better qualified and will always be there in your place. There won't always be time, and no one can take your place! Please help your gay brothers in need. It will enrich your life, as well as theirs. I can testify to that!

Joe Bovenzi  
Boston, MA

## GCN Job Openings

*GCN* is currently accepting applications for the following full-time positions. We welcome inquiries about these jobs.

**Promotions/Classified Advertising Manager** (available January 1986): Use direct mail marketing, exchange ads, renewal campaigns and other strategies to increase subscription and newsstand sales of the paper. Process and lay out weekly classified ads. **Qualifications:** Strong writing, administrative, creative and organizational skills. Previous promotions/marketing experience helpful.

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Lesbians and gay men of color are particularly encouraged to apply.

## Defense Committee Update

Important planning meetings are scheduled for the next few weeks: **Duke Watch Taskforce**, Monday, September 30 at 7:30 p.m.... **Coordinating Committee**, Wednesday, October 2 at 7 p.m.... **Community meeting** to discuss Foster Equality Week, Tuesday, October 15 at 7:30 p.m. Call the GLDC Hotline (628-6007) for locations and details.

*GCN* welcomes letters to the editor. If possible, they should be TYPED and DOUBLESPACED, and where possible limited to five typed pages. They should be sent to: **Community Voices, GCN, 167 Tremont St. #5, Boston, MA 02111.**

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## Speaking Out

# If It Makes You Feel Comfortable, Look Twice: A Feminist-Bookstore Worker Responds

By Susanna J. Sturgis

Janice Irvine's recent article "Women's Bookstores Reject Sex Magazines" (GCN, June 8, 1985) would have been more accurately titled "Why Women's Bookstores MUST Carry Lesbian Sex Magazines." For four years I have been book and periodical buyer for a feminist bookstore, continually making decisions about what to order and what to pass over. I don't make these decisions carelessly, and when my judgment of a book's content is involved, I do not make them in isolation. I — and, I imagine, most feminist-bookstore workers — know that the issues involved in a feminist bookstore's deciding what and what not to carry are maddeningly complex.

In marked contrast, Irvine seems to be offering me a place in one of two categories. Either I can be a censorious, knee-jerk, unadventurous prude, or I can be a bold rebel on the cutting edge of sexual change, moving, as Irvine put it, "into the daring, kinky or raunchy realms of sex." I am neither. I cannot set myself up as community censor, nor can I act as if the convictions of my mind and heart make no difference.

The store where I work carries the Samois anthology *Coming to Power*. It carries three of the periodicals mentioned in Irvine's article: *On Our Backs*, *Outrageous Women*, and *Bad Attitude*. I have never received promotional material or trade terms for *The Power Exchange*; I assumed that its publisher was not interested in distributing through feminist bookstores. Most of these decisions I initiated; all of them I support. As with other issues on which lesbians and feminists passionately disagree, some customers are happy with the store's policy and others are not.

Like the decisions of the Toronto Women's Bookstore staff, mine are not "carved in stone." Hardly a day goes by that I do not reconsider the decisions I have made, perhaps because of a customer's comment, perhaps because a new issue of one of these magazines comes in with a story or image I find especially offensive, or perhaps just because. Each time, I have decided against cancelling the store's standing order. Why?

At gut level my reason has little to do either with censorship or with my own political convictions. It has to do with my personal experience several years ago, first when I heard of lesbian sadomasochism, then as I avidly read accounts from the Barnard sexuality conference, the Heresies Sex Issue, and everything else I could find. What all that turmoil and ferment showed me above all was that I had done precious little exploring into what turned me on, or why, or what I was willing to do about it. The words of women on the sexual fringe started me thinking.

Perhaps these women will commend me for my anti-censorship stance, for my adventurousness or my "tolerance of diversity." I don't feel particularly adventurous, or principled, and I often wonder if this tolerance I show isn't really a weak-kneed attempt to duck the issues involved. By choosing to keep *On Our Backs*, et al, on the shelves, I am shutting out the understandable objections of women who find anti-feminist and abhorrent the magazines' Nazi-like images, frilly female images, and images of sexual abuse. I am shutting out my own objections.

What I object to is not sexually explicit materials — hell, no, I've been writing and enjoying my own for twenty years. What I object to is the apparent assumption on the part of the self-styled sexual outlaws and other "outrageous women" that these materials, simply because they are sexually explicit, should be exempt from the critical review to which a feminist is expected to subject everything else. Amy Hoffman advises, "If it makes you un-

comfortable, it's a good reason to look twice." I fully agree. But if it makes you feel *comfortable*, or if it turns you on? Surely these are good reasons too.

Does the fascination with spanking, for instance, that surfaces again and again in *Coming to Power* have nothing to do with certain child-rearing practices popular when many of the authors were growing up? Why might a woman be turned on by fantasies or role plays of master and slave, and is this something a feminist should encourage or celebrate? Do the "fringe" polarities of butch and femme really have nothing to do with the masculine/feminine dichotomy that is so central to this culture? Is prudishness the only conceivable motive for asking these questions?

A few years ago, it was the outrageous women who were asking the hard, necessary questions, prompting many of us to challenge our assumptions about female sexuality. I am no longer hearing those questions. What I do hear is a definite resistance to any questions or answers that might imply a limit to "if it feels good, do it." Out on the sexual fringe, it seems, outrageousness is by definition progressive. If it shocks feminists, particularly anti-pornography feminists, then it's on the right track.

"My enemy's enemy is my friend" may be justification enough for wartime alliances, but it's hardly a promising foundation for feminist exploration of female sexuality. What's more, and as many of us seem to have trouble remembering, a woman is not an enemy simply because she asks hard questions and will not settle for simplistic answers. Unfortunately, many of our "discussions" now take place at such a high decibel level that complexities are inaudible.

In her extremely important essay "Pornography and the Doubleness of Sex for Women," Joanna Russ suggests, borrowing from Wilhelm Reich, that "when classic forms of sexual suppression...first begin to disappear, what you get is not freedom but a lot of very nasty behavior in which the pre-existing violence begins to be visible, *along with* (italics in original) some genuinely progressive behavior and events."

Because the nasty and the progressive are not so easily distinguished at first glance as the more vociferous on both sides would have us believe, I will continue to err — if err it is — on the side of freewheeling discussion. For the time being I stand with any feminist-bookstore worker who chooses to stock the lesbian sex magazines and I stand with any who decides that the unquestioning celebration of certain "raunchy" behaviors is incompatible with the feminist commitments of her store. I suspect that the time is coming when I will be unable to stand in both these places at once.

1. In Joanna Russ, *Magic Mommas, Trembling Sisters, Puritans & Perverts*, Trumansburg, N.Y.: The Crossing Press, 1985.

*In July, after eight years in Washington, D.C., lesbian feminist writer Susanna J. Sturgis moved back to Massachusetts, her home state.*

**"Speaking Out"** is part of our continuing effort to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings and comments to us and we encourage you to respond to any ideas expressed in this space. Submissions to "Speaking Out" should be TYPED and DOUBLE SPACED, and, if possible, held to under 5 pages in length. The opinions expressed in "Speaking Out" do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper, the staff or the advertisers. Write c/o Speaking Out, GCN, 167 Tremont St., 5th Fl., Boston, MA 02111

## AIDS Resource List

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Education and support group for people with AIDS, their families, lovers, friends, and health care providers. Provides speakers, conducts forums, rap groups, hospice-trained volunteers, hotline information and referrals. Associated with Fenway Community Health Center.

**AIDS Action Line** — 536-7733 or Massachusetts toll-free AIDS hotline, 1-800-235-2331.

AIDS Action Committee service, information, referrals and befriending about AIDS.

**AIDS Hotline** — Community Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program, City of Boston, 424-5916.

Staff of public health nurses answer questions about AIDS, make referrals. Collects city-wide data from hospitals on AIDS cases, forwards data to Centers for Disease Control. Officially determines number of cases probable and under investigation.

**Fenway Community Health Center** — 16 Haviland Street, Boston, MA 02115, 267-7573.

A gay-sensitive health care facility. Hotline information, medical work-ups, diagnosis, referrals, counseling. Participates in research efforts.

**Gay and Lesbian Counseling Services** — 600 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02111, 542-5188.

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**Haitian Committee on AIDS in Massachusetts** — 177 Harvard Street, Dorchester, MA 02124, 436-2848.

Provides information, referrals, support and emergency assistance to Haitians with AIDS and their families.

**Mayor's Committee on AIDS** — 709A Boston City Hall, Boston, MA 02201, 725-3307.

Coordinates efforts of federal, state, and city health agencies, produces educational material, collects data on cases, reviews policy. Umbrella organization. Media outlet. Conducts forums and provides speakers, distributes AIDS brochures, referrals.

**National Gay Task Force Hotline** — 1-800-221-7044.

Toll-free national hotline run by NGTF to provide information and referrals.

**Springfield Downtown Ministry/Council of Churches** — 293 Bridge Street, #205, Springfield, MA 01103-1402, 737-4125.

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## Boy + Boy: a Natural Debut

**Boy Meets Boy.** By Bill Solly and Donald Ward. New Hollywood Productions, Ink. Performances Fri.-Sun. through Oct. 27. Tickets: \$10. Box office: 492-7933.

Reviewed by Bill Kreidler

Imagine a 1930s movie musical set in a world where homosexuality is accepted as the natural thing it is. Okay, now suppose there's a fag reporter named Casey who has a wisecracking dyke sidekick named Audra. And let's say that Casey falls in love with this guy he's heard about but not seen, an English peer named Guy. And suppose that Guy is in reality a nerdy guy who pretends he isn't Guy while he assists Casey in his hunt for Guy. Well, anyway, you get the idea. That's the premise behind *Boy Meets Boy*, a light-hearted romantic parody produced by New Hollywood Productions, Ink (*sic*) that has reopened at the Church of the Covenant for a four-week run. (This production is an encore of the production presented earlier this summer, except that over half the cast is new.)

*Boy Meets Boy* is obviously light fare, but in the right hands it is highly enjoyable entertainment. To work it needs a light touch, a rapid pace, and actors who can bring life to what are essentially cardboard characters. This new production doesn't always succeed,

but when it is good it is very good indeed. The cast includes many fine singing voices and some good comedy talent.

members stand out as well, particularly Mhioko Tokoro and Charito.

However, it is David Baird as

*Imagine a 1930's movie musical set in a world where homosexuality is accepted as the natural thing it is. Okay, now suppose there's a fag reporter with a wise-cracking dyke sidekick. And suppose...*

Diego Arciniegas-Tafar's Casey O'Brien is sophisticated and immensely likeable. Arciniegas-Tafar sings and dances well, and his comedy timing is excellent. Marf Shopmeyer, who plays Casey's sidekick Audra, has a beautiful voice; it is unfortunate that she doesn't get to use it more often. Paul Everett is very funny as Josephine LaRose the burlesque artiste, although he has — like almost everyone else in the cast — an unfortunate tendency to mug and play too broadly. Several

*Boy Meets Boy* is not without weaknesses, of course. The production suffers from uneven performances and lacks an internal consistency. But fortunately, the good is good enough to overcome the not-so-good.

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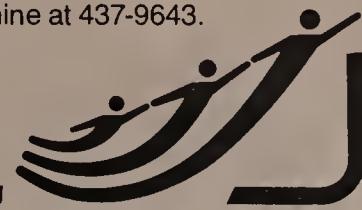
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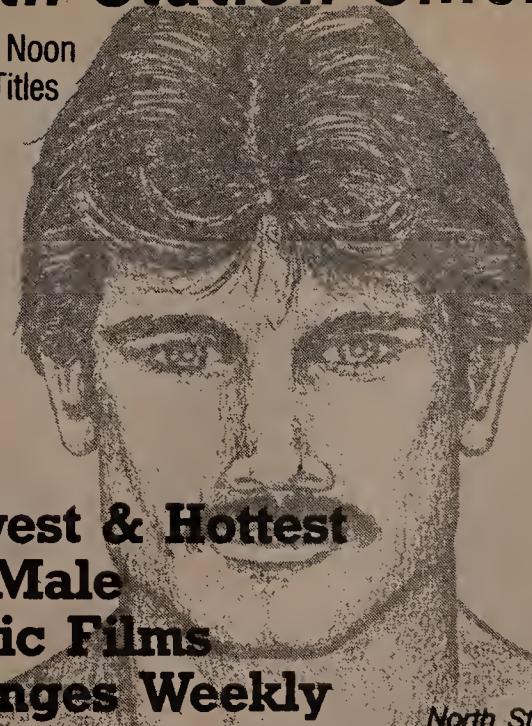
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News Notes	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
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Letters to the editor (Community Voices)	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Speaking Out	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
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Boston-based features/reviews	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Other features	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Calendar items	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Freedom's Just (Prisoner Project)	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Note This!	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Classified ads	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Other							
Which section do you like most? _____ Least? _____							
Comments (as to content of stories, style, length, focus,...) _____							

#### Region

As far as news stories are concerned, how satisfied are you with the quantity and quality of coverage for these different regions of the country?

Region	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Not satisfied	Don't know/no opinion
New England	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Mid-Atlantic	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
South	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Midwest	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Southwest	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
California	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Northwest	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Hawaii/Alaska	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████

In which region do you live? \_\_\_\_\_

Comments on regional news coverage \_\_\_\_\_

#### Topic

Below are a number of topics and issues covered in GCN. Would you say each of these is covered *not enough*, a *reasonable amount*, *too much*, or *don't know/no opinion*?

Topic	not enough	a reasonable amount	too much	don't know/no opinion
AIDS	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Bath/Bar/Bush arrests	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Bisexuality	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Boston-based news	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Central American liberation	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Other liberation movements	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Class issues	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Electoral politics	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Feminism	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Gay Democratic and Republican clubs	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Grassroots movements/organizing	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Housing issues	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Intergenerational sex	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
International news	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Labor/workplace issues	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Left-wing organizations	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Legal and court issues	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
National news	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
New Right	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Peace movement	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Pornography debate	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Racism and anti-racism organizing	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Religion	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Reproductive rights	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Sado-Masochism (S/M)	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Sexuality/sexual politics	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████

Should any of the above not be covered in GCN? \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain \_\_\_\_\_

Are there other issues/topics you would like GCN to cover? \_\_\_\_\_

If you had to choose three issues you most want GCN to cover, which would they be?

First choice \_\_\_\_\_

Second choice \_\_\_\_\_

Third choice \_\_\_\_\_

How satisfied are you with the layout and appearance of the paper? \_\_\_\_ Very satisfied \_\_\_\_ Satisfied \_\_\_\_ Not satisfied

\_\_\_\_ Don't know/no opinion

What would you change? \_\_\_\_\_

Is there any one thing you really like or dislike about GCN?

I like \_\_\_\_\_

I dislike \_\_\_\_\_

Overall, how satisfied are you with the content of GCN? \_\_\_\_ Very satisfied \_\_\_\_ Satisfied \_\_\_\_ Not satisfied

Additional comments about the content of GCN \_\_\_\_\_

## SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

How frequently do you read GCN?

- I read every issue thoroughly
- I look at every issue, but don't read everything
- I read most issues
- I read some issues
- I rarely/never read GCN

Do you consider the fact that GCN publishes weekly to be an advantage or disadvantage?

Advantage  Disadvantage

Please explain \_\_\_\_\_

How did you first hear about GCN?

- A friend
- Bookstore/newsstand
- Library
- Gay/lesbian organization
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been reading GCN?

- Less than six months
- Six months to one year
- One to three years
- Three to five years
- Over five years

How do you currently get your copy of GCN?

- Subscription
- Bookstore/newsstand
- Bar
- Local university
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

If you don't currently subscribe, why not?

- Lack of money
- Lack of interest in the paper
- Can't have the paper delivered where I live
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

How many people usually read your copy of GCN?  One  Two  Three  Four  Five or more

What other gay/lesbian periodicals do you subscribe to or read regularly? \_\_\_\_\_

What other (not gay- or lesbian-focused) periodicals do you subscribe to or read regularly? \_\_\_\_\_

## ADVERTISING

Have you ever utilized the products/services of a GCN advertiser?  Yes  No

Check all the types of GCN advertisers you have used:

<input type="checkbox"/> therapist	<input type="checkbox"/> chiropractor/bodyworker
<input type="checkbox"/> attorney	<input type="checkbox"/> dentist
<input type="checkbox"/> guesthouse/resort	<input type="checkbox"/> bookstore
<input type="checkbox"/> financial services	<input type="checkbox"/> housecleaner
<input type="checkbox"/> travel agency	<input type="checkbox"/> mover

What additional services/products would it benefit you to have listed in GCN's Business Guide, Display or Classified advertising? \_\_\_\_\_

## READER INFORMATION

Gender:  Male  Female

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Race: \_\_\_\_\_ Ethnic background: \_\_\_\_\_ Native language(s): \_\_\_\_\_

How would you describe yourself politically? \_\_\_\_\_

What political issues are currently of most concern to you? \_\_\_\_\_

How would you describe your class background? \_\_\_\_\_

Current annual income:

<input type="checkbox"/> \$0-4,999	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20,000-29,999
<input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000-9,999	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30,000-39,999
<input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000-14,999	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40,000+
<input type="checkbox"/> \$15,000-19,999	

# of dependents (not including self): \_\_\_\_\_

Formal education:

- some secondary school
- high school diploma
- some college
- undergraduate degree
- some post-graduate work
- post-graduate degree
- trade school

Alternative education: \_\_\_\_\_

Residence Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Location:  Urban area  suburban area  small town/city  rural area

## FUNDRAISING

GCN engages in various fundraising activities, because as a collectively run, non-profit organization it needs to supplement subscription and advertising income with various fundraising events and appeals. In addition to raising money for the paper, many of these events provide social and educational opportunities for the community to come together.

Below are various events and fundraising projects GCN may host. How likely would you be to contribute to or attend each?

fundraiser	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Unlikely	Don't know
Auction				
Concerts				
Dance				
Direct mail appeal				
GCN editorial appeals				
Gift subscriptions for others				
Movie benefits				
Panel discussion/debate				
Poetry/prose readings				
Speakers/lectures				
T-shirt sales				
Other _____				

Additional Comments \_\_\_\_\_

# Human Rights Campaign Fund

## The Fourth Annual New England Dinner Celebration

An evening of dining, dancing, speeches & socializing to support lesbian & gay political issues.

Date: Friday, November 22, 1985

Place: The Lafayette Hotel in Boston

Appearances by:

Congressman Barney Frank  
Elaine Noble  
Congressman Stewart McKinney  
Congressman Gerry Studds & others

Keynote Speaker: to be announced

Tickets: \$150

For reservations and ticket information, call (617) 487-2979 or write HRCF-New England, Box 1430, Back Bay Annex, Boston, MA 02117.

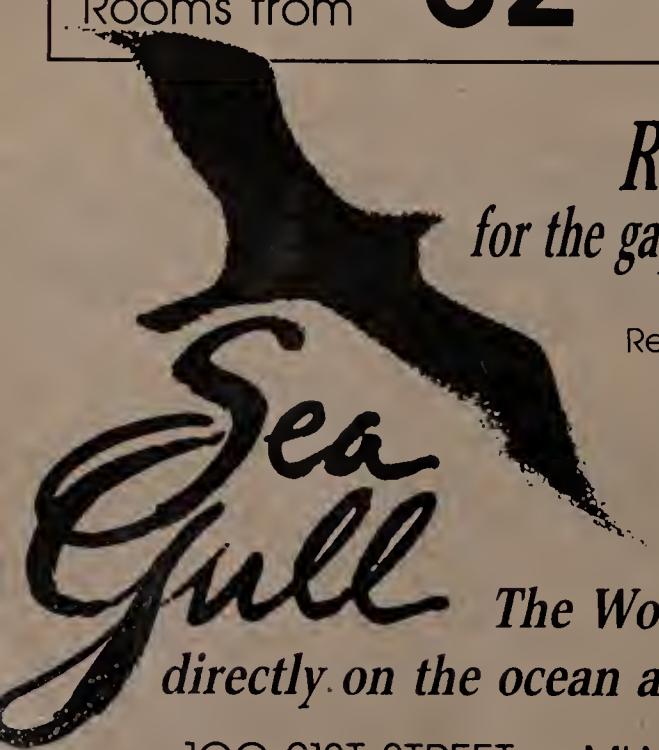
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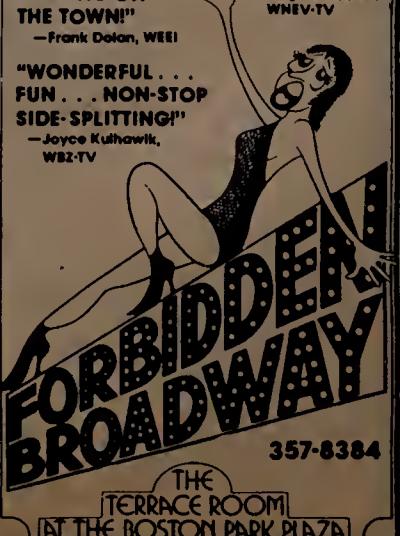
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—Kevin Kelly, Boston Globe

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—Chuck Kraemer, WCVB-TV

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—Frank Dolan, WEI

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—Joyce Kultawik, WBZ-TV

"BRILLIANT!"  
—Angela Rippon, WNEV-TV



# Mass. Bill

Continued from page 1

Dalton, commented, "There was a lot of victim-blaming going on there."

Proponents of the bill repeatedly took the floor to provide information about the transmissibility of AIDS and also tried to separate it from the civil rights issue. Representative Thomas Gallagher (D-Boston) called the discussion on AIDS "the latest in a series of red herrings" to prevent passage of the measure. He and others, including Byron Rushing (D-Boston) and Saundra Graham (D-Cambridge), challenged legislators to translate their concerns into providing more funding for AIDS research, education, and patient care.

Following the debate, Ann Maguire, the Boston mayor's liaison to the lesbian and gay community, said the debate "clearly shows how much education about AIDS is needed." Maguire, who is also on the mayor's AIDS Task Force, added, "Some people who raised the issues weren't always voting for funding."

Peg Lorenz, the MGPC lobbyist, told *GCN* that 12 legislators who had promised to vote in favor of the measure reneged, causing the bill's defeat. "The votes of the twelve changed the outcome. They jumped ship. I was disappointed [particularly] about the people who switched their votes. They gave their word they would maintain their position." She named in particular Robert Cerasoli (D-Quincy), Thomas S. Cahill (D-Bourne), Gus Serra (D-Boston) and Vincent Lozzi (D-Lynn).

Since the summer, the Dukakis administration has worked on the lobbying effort along with MGPC. One of Dukakis' top aides, John Sasso, talked with legislators and did head counts along with another aide, Mary Ann Walsh.

However, the Dukakis efforts have been questioned by many in the lesbian and gay community who consider them an attempt to regain favor with a community angry at some of the governor's recent actions. In May, the Dukakis administration led the fight against inclusion of lesbians and gay men as an outreach group of the Democratic Party. That same

month, two foster children were removed from the home of two gay men, Donald Babets and David Jean, following a public debate about the appropriateness of placing children in lesbian or gay homes. The administration subsequently developed a new foster parent policy which virtually excludes gay men and lesbians from foster parenting. In addition, AIDS activists were angered when the administration released its budget and there was no line item for AIDS funding. Funds were eventually included after activists met with government officials.

Generally, activists close to the bill said the atmosphere set up by the governor's foster care policy ruined any chance the bill might have had. Dalton told *GCN*, "He took the children out of the home. He set the stage. He could have toed the line on that."

Co-chair of the MGPC, Steve Tierney, said, "The Dukakis administration sees the bill as something they support. I don't believe they are trying to get their votes back. But they have to take some flak. The foster care issue was poorly handled and it set up a climate to be homophobic this year. It set up an environment which said it's okay to be more conservative. It was handled publicly and poorly."

Lorenz agreed, saying that the foster care issue "set a tone in that building [the State House]. It felt for awhile like it was open season on gay people. There were jokes about gay people. It gave permission for some of that stuff to surface. It gave out a double message." Lorenz said the particular foster care policy formulated by the Dukakis administration made a difference in the outcome of the vote.

Minority leader Robinson, an opponent of the bill, also chastised Governor Dukakis' work on the bill when he said, "I am appalled the governor would make the [gay rights bill] a number one priority issue without any consideration of [the public health]."

Openly gay City Councillor David Sondras said Dukakis "behaved as a decent liberal" but that the administration ultimately does not have the primary commitment needed. "It is not treated as a central issue for his government,"

*Continued on page 12*

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## Mass. Bill

*Continued from page 11*

said Sondras. "I'm not saying he didn't try hard to do something. But it is not the bottom line for him. That's serious because human rights is not open to political considerations."

Jim Dorsey, the governor's spokesperson, said the governor's foster care policy did not make a difference in the outcome. He pointed out that relatively little of the debate centered on foster care. (The House passed a resolution on the issue last spring after the governor's policy had been announced, and it specifically prohibited lesbians and gay men from

foster parenting, claiming such parents are a harmful influence on children.)

Although there was relatively little mention of foster care, one lawmaker, John Flood (D-Canton), described a domino theory where gay people first ask for civil rights, then foster children, family health insurance, marital deduction, and then legalized marriages. Flood then went on to point out that "sexual orientation" can refer to people other than gay people and heterosexuals. When one of his peers asked, he said there are bisexuals "and other orientations that may or may not have to do with other human beings."

## El Salvador Protest



Marilyn Humphries

(left photo) Lesbian demonstrators explain to police their intent to enter Boston's INS Detention Center and free incarcerated Central American refugees. (right photo, moments later) The police cut the discussion short. (on the cover) Demonstrators blocking Detention Center sit down to defuse tension created by police use of horses to break up protest.



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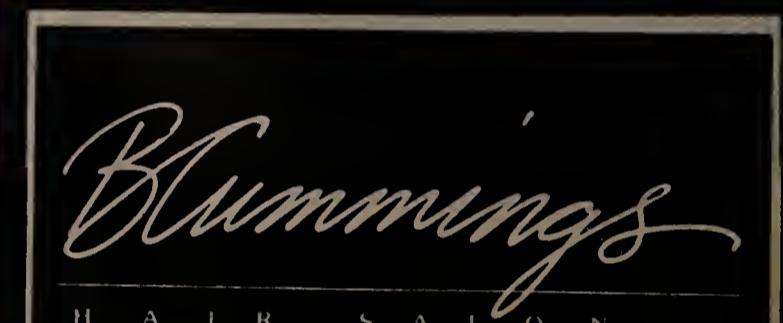
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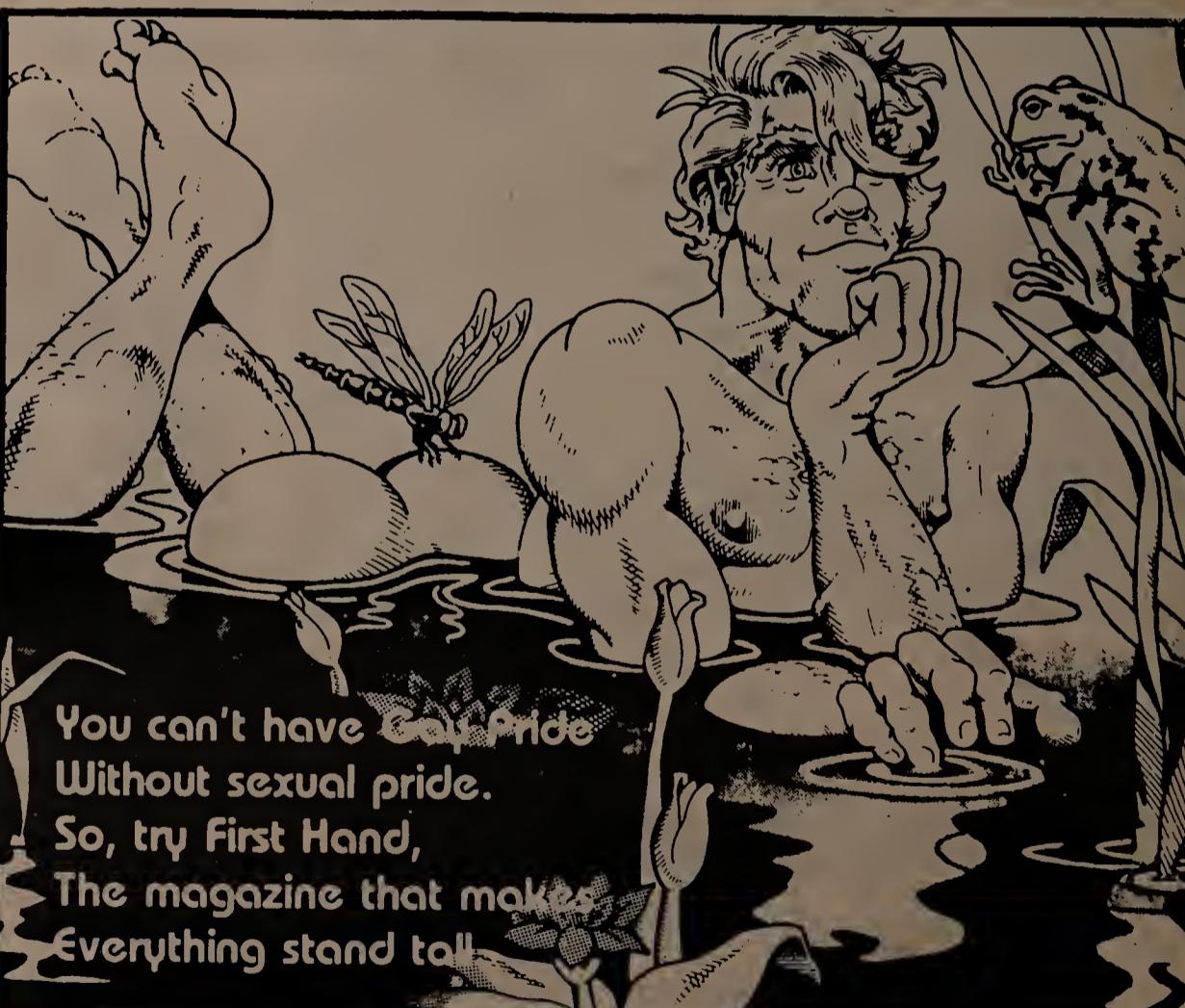
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*Mike Kuchar © 83*

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Woman to share Arlington apt. near public trans., nice apt., \$275/month. Call 641-2298 after 6:30 pm. (12)

Prof gm, 31, seeks quiet, reliable, good-natured roommate to share gorgeous 6 room flat, Porter Square, Camb., near T. \$350 + ht. util. I'm allergic to cats and cigarette smoke. Eves: 864-6094. (12)

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Need immediately in-law apartment/room and board by gwm in exchange for 20-25 hrs/wk. Ideal for new home owner in need of helper. Prefer Somerville/Boston area. Contact Corey, POB 45016 Somerville, MA 02145 or 776-0711. (13)

## RENTALS

### SUBLEASE

Prof woman, 30+, quiet, independent and clean wanted for sublease of very lg 3rd floor of 2fl apt. Share same access, kitchen, bath with also quiet, clean prof woman. Call 625-7929. Leave message \$300 Including utils (8)

## APARTMENTS

Spacious first floor apt. in Apple Country - 10 minutes to I-95. Four rooms plus pantry. Lesbian owned/occupied. \$460 + utils. Avail 9/26. 368-0406. (12)

Dorchester 3 family owner occupied 6 room, 2 bdrm, recently renovated, new oil furn., kitchen, bath, no util. \$425/month. Lease, sec. & last month. Russo 282-1196. (13)

2 BDRM APT. IN Quincy, eat in kitchen, newly renovated, hardwd fls, clean washer/dryer hups, porches, parking. Walk or bus to T. \$650 + utilities. Avail 10/1. 843-5799 or 578-4893. (12)

## TRAVEL AGENCIES

### FOREX TRAVEL

Phone 482-2900  
 76 Arlington St.  
 at Boston Park Plaza

## RESORTS

### THE GREENHOUSE

Women's Guesthouse, cozy, comfortable, parking, cont. bkfst, off season rates. 18 Pearl St., Box 22 P'town MA 02657. (617)487-2270. (O)

### MAINE AT ITS BEST

BLUEBERRY COVE CAMP IS OPEN TO October 15th. Cabins, camping, fish and vegetarian meals, organic garden, boats, beach, lodge with fireplace. Write HRC 35, Box 520 Tenants Harbor, Maine 04860. Tel. (207) 372-6353. (14)

### VERMONT GUESTHOUSE

Bed and cont. breakfast for Lesbians and Gay men in a country village house. 2 hours from Boston. Year round. Near lakes, hikes, skiing. Dave and Mike (802) 348-7840 (yr)

### GABRIEL'S

Guest rooms and apartments. Centrally located. Hot tub, garden patio, cable tv, coffee. 104 Bradford St. Provincetown, MA 02657. Reservations: (617) 487-3232. Open year round. (yr)

### CHECK'ER OUT AT THE CHECK'ER INN

Double rooms, coffee bt fireside, pkg, apts. also available. 1 block bay, open year round. 487-9029, 25 Winthrop St. P'town, MA 02657 (yr)

### GREENHOPE FARM

All woman guest house in VT's MT's. Horse-back riding on premises. Cozy private rooms. Fall foliage from mid-Sept. thru Oct. Veg. cuisine. Farm animals. Friendly and informal. (802) 533-7772 (11)

## SERVICES

### RESUMES THAT WORK

\$25  
 Includes consultation  
 and completed resume.  
 787-4252  
 8pm-11pm

### COREY'S CLEANING

Home/Office cleaning + beautification. From house keeping + laundry to plant care/accenting. Weekly and biweekly. Call 776-0711. (13)

### GAY MEN'S THERAPY GROUP

Openings. Group focus is on intimacy, gay identity, relationships. Individual therapy is also available. Sliding fee. Call Francis Glambrone at 628-6988 (yr)

## GCN SPECIALS

### HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

Do you know of places where people could benefit by having GCN around? Are you ever at places and wonder why we aren't there too? Well, we need your help to get us around town (and out of town too). So if you have ideas where GCN could be distributed and would like to help us accomplish that give Brian a call at 426-4469. It will be much appreciated. Thanks! (c)

### TYPISTS' FINGERS ARE THE BEST

Put your skills to work and cruise the GCN offices at the same time. For an hour or an afternoon. Work at home or elsewhere if you prefer. Drop-in basis, regular schedule or on call emergency status. (All volunteer, sorry to say.) Call Lole or Gordon at 426-4469. (c)

### TRANSCRIBERS DO IT WITH THEIR EARS

We need you too. (See details in notice to typists above.) (c)

## Gay

## Community News

is available on microfilm

**\$30**  
 per volume

Mail check or money order to:

**GCN**  
 167 Tremont St., 5th fl.  
 Boston, MA 02111

### PHOTO FANATICS

Want to look through a few years worth of lesbian/gay pictorial history? GCN's photo-file is in disarray (to say the least). If you've got an hour or more - almost any time, any day - call Lole, 426-4469. (c)

**Gay Community News** needs help on Friday nights mailing the paper to our subscribers. Come and help: It's easy, it's fun, it's a good way to meet people, and it's a good way to get involved with your community's paper. Just come anytime after 6PM to 167 Tremont Street, 5th floor (between the Byston and Park Street "T" stops). If the door is locked, buzz us on the GCN Intercom located outside the door. If you have any questions, call Marcos at 426-4469. (c)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Feminist poet & counselor Ellen Bass will return to Boston in October to lead two workshops:

Friday, Oct. 18 — a one-day workshop for women lovers and friends of survivors of child sexual abuse. Call Mady at 522-6813 for info.

Sat. & Sun., Oct. 19-20 — a weekend workshop for women survivors of childhood sexual abuse. Call Pam at 524-6209.

## Prisoners Seeking Friends

I am writing you in regards to placing an ad in your magazine for penpals. I need someone to write to. I am gay and would sincerely appreciate it. Danny MEREDITH, 83982, PO Box 128, Eddyville KY 42038.

I hope for someone from your paper, black or white, to correspond to me off and on. I am seeking true men in society who are natural lover and want in relation a intelligent, affectional loveable and understandable person as myself. I seek a real/solid relation with a man of meaningful quality. Keith G. PENNIX, 138462, PO Box 488, Burkeville VA 23922.

Roses are red, violets are blue; My cock is hard and looking for you! Lonely, smooth gay man looking for others to correspond wth. Send pics and letters. Will answer all. R. PETERSON, 183-329, Box 4571, Lima OH 45802.

Pisces, lots of fun, into (some) bodybuilding, in need of letters. It's for real. C'mon write! W.H. (Bob) FORD, 206291, PO Box 500, Olustee FL 32072.

### DIVIDE AND CONQUER!!!

*Prisoners, we want to do a piece on all the little ways they keep you separated from each other, not just with isolation, and rules about where you can and can't go etc. etc.; but with 'attitudes' (racism, anti-gay, ageism, etc. etc.), all the ways they manipulate your minds to keep you from uniting against them. Let's hear from you. We'll send back a couple stamps if that's a problem. Thanks!*

If anyone in A.P.C.C. is reading this, tell Lefty I love him. Green Eyes.

TV male seeks 2 or more lesbians seeking gay male roommate to use as maid service. Contact Ms. Peggy Sue Lasher, c/o Frank G. MacCUMBER, 84C1065, Box 149, Attica NY 14011

Seeking intelligent conversation. Am a preoperative TS, 38, brown eyes, black hair; Am Quinapac Indian; Interested in classical music, cooking, research in psychology, sociology and horticulture and a vast number of other subjects. Would like to hear from other TSs too. Martin ROLLO (aka Mario Penny Robinson), 090749, PO Box 1500 (74), Cross City FL 32628.

Prison inmate, 37, Dec. parole, need job. BA & JD degrees. 10 yrs legal work, news reporter and paralegal instructor experience. Documentation and references. James Romero, 28522, Box 1059, Santa Fe NM 87501.

GM seeking men in hopes of starting a meaningful, love filled relationship. I am a sincere person and will respect any sincere answers. With love. Scott RESEBURG, 289921, Box 38, Huntsville TX 77344.

FREE Jan 86! Black male, Gemini, looking for a sincere relationship. Race makes no difference. Drag queens preferred. Donald THOMAS, 048562 (721), Rt 2 Box 13-A, Immokalee FL 33934.

I would love to hear from gays, male and female, and she-males are more than welcome. I love to draw, dance, party, and best of all, to make love. I give anything a try, so drop me a few lines. Cliff CANADA, Apt 2A16, 818 Jefferson Ave, Moundsville WV 26041.

Incarcerated Native American (Apache) seeks correspondence. I am lonely and in need of a sincere relationship. Donald STROUTH, 85450, Sta A, Unit 6-2/1, Nashville TN 37219.

Interested in older person to develop friendship, possible relationship. Enjoy the outdoors, reading and music. Not interested in bar scenes or drugs. Want quiet home life for two. Steve BOURGET, Box A, Thomaston ME 04861.

POVERTY



# CALENDAR

**September 28  
to  
October 10**

**28 saturday**

**Boston** — "Boy Meets Boy," a musical comedy. Church of the Covenant at Berkeley & Newbury Sts. Through 10/27. Sunday matinee proceeds to AIDS research. \$10. Info: 492-7933.

**Boston** — State Powerlifting Championship for lesbians and gay men. South End Gym, 1355-A Washington St., No. 108. 11AM. \$3. Info: 451-3514.

**Cambridge** — Out of the Closet & Onto the Dance Floor, a lesbian dance. Daughters of Bilitis, 1151 Mass. Ave., Old Cambridge Baptist Church. 8PM. \$4. Drug- & alcohol-free. Info: 661-3633.

**Boston** — "El Salvador: Eyewitness Report." Roxbury Community College, 625 Huntington Ave., Room 307-K. 8PM. \$2. Info: CASA, 492-8699.

**Cambridge** — Sanchin School Self-Defense Workshop. 595 Mass. Ave., Central Sq. 1PM. Sliding scale. Info: 522-9821.

**Cambridge** — CASA fundraising party. 37 Pleasant St., Central Sq. 9PM.

**29 sunday**

**Cambridge** — Women's Softball end-of-season get-together. Magazine Field, across from Memorial Drive Stop & Shop. 4-6PM. Info: Steph, 357-5774.

**Boston** — Kathleen Barry: "Prostitution & Pornography: Crimes Against Women." Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Copley Sq. 11AM.

**Cambridge** — Reading/celebration with Ellen Galford, author of *Moll Cutpurse*. New Words Bookstore, 186 Hampshire, Inman Sq. Info: 876-5310.

**30 monday**

**Boston** — Party to benefit Coors' Task Force. 1270 Club, 1270 Boylston St. 8PM until closing. \$3. Info: Chris Snow, 424-1176 or 492-1998.

**Boston** — Support group for women incest survivors forming at Aradia Counseling. Info: Susan, 247-4861x58.

**october 1 tuesday**

**Boston** — Gay & lesbian state workers meet to discuss foster parent policy. Anonymity respected. 14 Beacon St., 1st floor conference rm. 6-7:30PM. Info: 354-0133 or 576-6788.

**Boston** — Rainbow Coalition Lesbian & Gay Constituency. 7:30PM. Next meeting, Oct. 15. Info: Malkah, 364-5938.

**Cambridge** — Lesbian Former Nuns Support Group. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7PM. Info: 354-8807.

**2 wednesday**

**Boston** — "Eric Goes to Hollywood," a congratulatory send-off for Eric Rofes. Proceeds to benefit the Gay & Lesbian Counselling Services. At Greystone's, 8 Kingston St. 7:30PM. \$15. Info: 542-5188.

**Holbrook** — "Acupuncture: Theory, Practice & Implications for Your Health." Center for Wellness, 97 Belcher St. 7-9PM. \$5. Info: 767-2336.

**Cambridge** — Reception for Lesbian & Gay Law Students & Attorneys. Harvard Univ., Pound Hall No. 335, 1563 Mass. Ave. 7-11PM. Info: COGLLI: 498-7973.

**Cambridge** — Women's Alliance Against Pornography open meeting to organize support for Cambridge anti-pornography amendment. 7 Temple St., Central Sq. 8PM.



Libana, October 5

**6 sunday**

**Dorchester** — Dorchester GALA monthly potluck. 7:30PM. Info: Ed, 288-4367 or Diane, 288-9155.

**Boston** — Legacy drop-in for older lesbians & gay men and friends. Clarendon St. YWCA, Copley Sq. 6PM. Info: 725-3307.

**Boston** — The New Ehrlich Theatre presents "White Mountains" by Bruce Dale. New Ehrlich Theatre, 539 Tremont St. 7:30PM. \$1. Info: 482-6316.

**Waltham** — Introductory meeting for volunteers for the Waltham Battered Women Support Committee, Inc. Info: 899-8676.

**Quincy** — Quincy Lesbian and Gay Alliance potluck picnic. Trailside Museum, Blue Hills Reservation. Noon. Info: Christine, 328-5685 or De, 328-5567.



Eric Rofes, October 2

**3 thursday**

**Boston** — GCN's production night when articles are proofread and pasted up. Join the fun; read tomorrow's news today. 5-8PM for proofing, 7:30-midnight for lay-out. 167 Tremont St. (near Park and Boylston "T") GCN: 426-4469.

**Cambridge** — Signing/celebration with Lynn Andrews, author of *Jaguar Woman*, *Flight of the Seventh Moon*, *New Words*, 186 Hampshire. Info: 876-5310.

**Roxbury** — Little Flags Theatre presents "Windfall." Charlestown Working Theatre, 442 Bunker Hill Ave. (near the Sullivan T-stop). \$5 previews till the 5th. Continues through 10/26. Info: 232-2666.

**Cambridge** — Feminist Anti-Censorship Taskforce benefit: erotic readings, slide-tape presentation, Carole Vance, Ann Snitow & rock'n roll. YWCA, Central Sq. 8PM. \$4 more or less. Info: 731-4230.

**4 friday**

**Boston** — GCN's VOLUNTEER NIGHT: come help send the paper to our subscribers. Refreshments & good times. Anytime after 6PM. 167 Tremont St. (near Park and Boylston "T") To be let in, buzz GCN's intercom outside the street entrance. GCN: 426-4469.

**Boston** — "Beatitudes for Dying Men," media performances about AIDS by James Williams. Mobius, 354 Congress St. 8PM. \$6. Fridays & Saturdays until 10/12. Info: 542-7416.

**Boston** — Demonstration for Puerto Rican Independence. JFK Building. 4-6PM.

**Boston** — Joanie Katz sings folk & blues. Somewhere Else, 295 Franklin St. Info: 423-7730.

**Cambridge** — Symposium on Women and Pornography with Catherine MacKinnon, Carole Vance and others. Harvard and MIT. 3-10PM, Friday and 10AM-6PM, Saturday. Info: 253-8844.

**Peterborough, NH** — Marcia Taylor & Court Dorsey to perform. The Folkway, 85 Grove St. 8:30PM. Info: (603) 924-7484.

**5 saturday**

**Boston** — Abortion rights picket to commemorate the death of Rosie Jimenez, 1977 back-alley abortion victim. Government Center, Noon-1:30PM. Co-sponsored by Boston chapter, Reproductive Rights National Network & NOW. Info: 661-6015.

**Cambridge** — "Acting Out Addictions," a workshop for women. YWCA, 7 Temple St., Central Sq. Also on 10/19. Info: 628-9172.

**Cambridge** — "The Families We Choose," a documentary about lesbian families. 7 Temple St., Central Sq. 7 & 9PM. \$3, advance/\$4, door. ASL interpreted & childcare available for 7PM show only. Info: 628-9172.

**Boston** — Libana women's chorus to perform. New England Life Hall, 225 Clarendon St., Copley Sq. 8PM. \$6 & \$10. Info: 266-7262.

**note this!**

**Plenty.** Directed by Fred Schepisi. Written by David Hare. With Meryl Streep, Sting, John Gielgud. At the Nickelodeon.

For years it seemed Hollywood had stopped promoting women stars. The golden age of Hepburn, Davis and Crawford had given way to Newman, Redford and buddy movies. The past few years have seen the resurgence of strong, intelligent actresses. And with their success we have seen more movies which are about women. *Plenty*, with a screenplay by British playwright David Hare from his stageplay, is a perceptive look at one woman's attempts to live a full political life.

Susan Terhern (Meryl Streep) begins the film working for the Resistance in France at the end of World War II. Over the next 20 years, she strives — against an increasingly more affluent and hardbitten world — to reclaim that same sense of self-worth she had found in her youth. Too smart, ambitious and nervy for the world around her, Susan goes through her options only to find herself set off from, and betrayed, by the world she had once envisioned.

But writer Hare and director Schepisi have not made this woman a lifeless victim. Susan is obnoxious, unlikable and downright callous in many of her social interactions. It is to their credit, and Streep's acting, that we are able to sympathize with, as well as dislike, her. *Plenty* is a treat: a movie about politics, women and substantial questions that at the same time manages to entertain and please.

—Michael Bronski

**The Fickle Fiddle**, by John Shannon Keogh. Directed by Michael Mitchell; Artistic Director, Denise Galon. Presented by John A. Harris, Andy Anselmo and the Singers Forum Players at the Singers Forum, 137 Fifth Ave., 6th floor, New York City. Sept. 13-15, 20-22, Oct. 4-6, 11-13.

Michael has a problem: is he a country boy or a Big City faggot? He's fled the New York opening of a play he's written — as well as his unfaithful lover, Lance — and returned to Mt. Juliet, just outside Nashville. When he takes a job as desk clerk in a cheap motel, the Fickle Fiddle, he promptly gets tangled up in the lives of a cheerleader, two country singers, and various other local types. On top of it all, Lance flies to Tennessee to lure him back to his bed and Off-Broadway fame: Michael's play has been a success.

I wish I could say the same for *The Fickle Fiddle*, but no such luck. Author Keogh is originally from Nashville, but despite authentic-sounding details of geography and accent, his play is set strictly in sitcomland. Even within its genre the script falls short: a sprinkling of genuinely funny lines can't hide creaky construction, overly familiar character types, or humanly improbable behavior.

Michael's identity crisis is a good subject, but right now his inner struggles are inchoate and unconvincing. Worse, as directed and played here, in his scenes with Lance the tone of the play changes from broad comedy to agonizing (and inappropriate) seriousness. It's hard to believe that these two men have ever been lovers, when they continually convey more hurt and anger than affection. If we can't see why they've been good for each other — at least at some time in their lives — why should we care if Michael stays in the South or becomes a Yankee again?

Billed as a "workshop production" on the program (though not the ads), this Singers Forum presentation has an uneven male cast, but a strong female one: Anna McDaniels, Carmen Thomas, and Carissa Channing have (and make) as lively a time of it as the script permits.

— Nicholas Deutsch

Calendar compiled by Miranda Kolbe

**GAY COMMUNITY NEWS**

